



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending July 19, 2009

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Good Week for Field Work: A drier, cooler than normal week in Pennsylvania ended with scattered rain showers. There were a total of 5 days suitable for field work. The primary field activities included: small grain harvesting, baling straw, and making hay. Fruits and vegetables continue to be assessed to determine the effects from the May freezes. Cool morning temperatures are now affecting crop growth, leaving many agriculturalists hoping for a bit more sunshine.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 19, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
3	31	61	5

Crop Progress: Corn is 38% silked or tasseled, compared to 39% at this time last year and the 46% five-year average. Seven percent of corn has reached the dough stage, versus 3% last year, and the average of 5%. The corn has an average height of 59 inches, which is five inches behind last year (64 in.), and nine inches behind the five year average of 68 inches. Ninety-seven percent of the state's barley has been harvested, which is exactly the same as last year, as well as the state's five year average. Ninety-eight percent of the winter wheat has ripened, compared with last year's 98%, and the average of 99%. Eighty-four percent has been harvested statewide, which is on track with 82% last year at this time and ahead of the five year average (79%). Sixty-seven percent of Pennsylvania's oats have turned yellow, which is comparable to last year's 65% and the five year average of 66%. Twelve percent of the oats are reported ripe, slightly behind last year's 16%, and the state's 21% five year average. The alfalfa second cutting is 75% complete. This can be compared to 83% last year at this time, and the average of 76% complete. Third cutting alfalfa is 10% completed, compared to 16% last year, and the 15% five year average. Thirty-seven percent of the second cutting of timothy/clover is completed, which surpasses both last year's progress, and the average of 21% harvested. Twenty-three percent of the peach crop has been harvested, compared to 12% at this time last year, and the five-year average of 16%. Ten percent of Pennsylvania's apples were reported harvested, well ahead of last year and the five year average, which were both 3%.

Crop Condition The state's corn conditions decreased to 1% very poor, 4% poor, 22% fair, 47% good, and 26% excellent. Oat conditions are similar, reported at 0% very poor, 2% poor, 17% fair, 55% good, and 26% excellent. State-wide soybean condition increased since last week and is now 0% very poor, 4% poor, 24% fair, 52% good, and 20% excellent. Overall quality of hay also improved to 1% very poor, 4% poor, 23% fair, 44% good, and 28% excellent. Pasture conditions declined to 4% very poor, 7% poor, 34% fair, 39% good, and 16% excellent. The peach conditions improved to 0% very poor, 0% poor, 9% fair, 59% good, and 32% excellent. The apple conditions were similar to last week at 0% very poor, 0% poor, 4% fair, 56% good, and 40% excellent.

Nationwide as of July 13, 2009: Starting July 8, temperatures soared to 100 degrees F or higher on the Plains as far north as Kansas, significantly stressing pastures, livestock, and rain-fed summer crops. Toward week's end, the Desert Southwest also experienced 110 degree heat. For the week as a whole, extreme heat in the south-central and southwestern U.S. contrasted with near- to below-normal temperatures elsewhere. Weekly temperatures averaged as least 5 degrees F above normal in the Desert Southwest, but generally ranged from 3 to 7 degrees F below normal in the Great Lakes and Northeastern States. Near the boundary between hot and cool air, scattered Midwestern showers and thunderstorms maintained generally favorable conditions for corn and soybeans entering the reproductive stage of development. Only a small section of the Midwest, including the uppermost Mississippi Valley, remained unfavorably dry. Meanwhile in the South, locally heavy showers eased the stressful effects of a late-June heat wave and short-term dryness. Rainfall was especially beneficial from the central Gulf Coast region into the Southeast, but showers largely bypassed the heat- and drought-stricken western Gulf Coast region, including southern Texas. Elsewhere, mostly dry weather promoted Western fieldwork. However, dry conditions remained a concern with respect to some rain-fed small grains across the northern tier of the West.

Corn: Nationally, 16 percent of this year's corn crop was at or beyond the silking stage, 4 points ahead of last year, but 16 points behind the 5-year average. Progress remained at or behind the average in all States except North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Texas where 92, 22, and 79 percent of the crop was silking, respectively. With 71 percent of the crop rated good to excellent, conditions were unchanged from a week ago and 7 points above last year. **Soybeans:** By week's end, soybeans blooming advanced to 24 percent complete, 1 point slower than the pace a year ago and 19 points slower than normal. Overall, 66 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, unchanged from a week ago and 7 points better than last year. **Winter Wheat:** Producers had harvested 66 percent of their acreage, compared with 63 percent last year and 69 percent for the 5-year average. **Barley:** Heading in this year's barley crop advanced to 55 percent complete by July 12, twenty points slower than a year ago and 25 points behind the 5-year average. Seventy-eight percent of the Nation's barley crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 77 percent last week and 67 percent a year ago. **Oats:** By week's end, heading was evident in 90 percent of this year's oat crop, 2 points behind last year's pace and 4 points slower than the average. Harvest inched forward during the week to 11 percent complete, on par with last year's pace, but 2 points slower than the average. Overall, 59 percent of the oat crop was rated in good to excellent condition, unchanged from a week ago, but down 2 points from last year.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 19, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 19, 2009						
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F	
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total	
Northwest													
Erie	82	54	67	-6	1.35	3	13.94	1.04	48	1,165	5	2,126	
Franklin	84	47	65	-7	0.29	2	14.81	-0.23	49	1,117	6	2,072	
Meadville	82	53	66	-4	0.22	2	13.06	-1.30	50	1,098	88	2,045	
Mercer	84	48	66	-5	0.41	2	13.76	-0.67	49	1,118	13	2,075	
Springboro	81	45	64	-8	0.37	3	13.07	0.27	51	953	-220	1,873	
Warren	81	47	63	-7	0.08	2	13.95	-1.04	44	1,015	-64	1,951	
North Central													
Bradford Region	77	38	59	-8	0.21	2	13.64	-1.58	52	765	-5	1,644	
Oswayo	81	38	60	-7	0.25	2	13.97	-0.75	55	790	-81	1,674	
Kane	79	39	59	-8	0.19	2	15.54	0.26	49	744	-17	1,617	
Laporte	81	50	63	-8	0.25	3	15.58	1.25	60	884	-225	1,808	
Lock Haven	87	48	66	-6	0.35	2	15.55	1.65	48	1,245	56	2,232	
Port Allegany	80	43	60	-7	0.15	2	13.00	-1.72	46	836	-35	1,738	
Renovo	87	46	65	-7	0.87	2	12.05	-1.85	50	1,140	-49	2,118	
Ridgway	81	42	60	-7	0.16	2	13.25	-2.17	48	858	-12	1,752	
Stevenson Dam	85	45	64	-4	0.23	2	11.27	-4.15	47	1,086	216	2,040	
Towanda	88	46	65	-6	0.16	1	14.36	2.49	50	1,088	-33	2,051	
Wellsboro	82	44	60	-7	0.45	2	13.37	1.38	50	799	-12	1,700	
Williamsport	90	49	68	-5	0.19	2	12.89	-1.06	50	1,430	106	2,464	
Northeast													
Hawley	83	45	64	-5	1.05	3	18.30	5.00	48	967	33	1,911	
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	85	50	68	-5	0.62	2	13.77	0.77	47	1,312	56	2,321	
Susquehanna	83	47	64	-4	1.06	3	16.82	2.60	55	1,013	118	1,958	
West Central													
Butler	84	48	65	-7	0.77	3	12.41	-1.79	51	1,097	-61	2,058	
New Castle	87	48	67	-4	0.17	1	12.72	-0.41	49	1,275	108	2,254	
Slippery Rock	86	46	66	-4	0.63	2	15.45	1.54	52	1,146	97	2,106	
Central													
Altoona/Blair	84	47	65	-7	0.66	1	12.24	-0.81	55	1,209	-52	2,189	
DuBois	81	46	63	-7	0.44	3	15.89	1.44	54	1,078	-1	2,020	
Lewistown	89	50	68	-6	0.33	1	16.93	2.96	53	1,306	-80	2,309	
Middletown	91	56	73	-4	0.19	1	18.21	4.59	52	1,606	30	2,652	
Prince Gallitzi	84	47	64	-5	0.39	2	12.56	-3.86	53	986	-2	1,898	
Selinsgrove	90	49	68	-5	0.20	2	16.41	2.42	44	1,271	-18	2,258	
State College	86	52	67	-5	0.38	2	11.92	-0.96	52	1,271	28	2,261	
East Central													
Allentown-Bethel	88	50	69	-6	0.47	1	17.95	4.01	50	1,384	-49	2,397	
Lehighton	84	50	66	-8	0.15	2	19.95	5.92	49	1,210	-163	2,202	
Matamoras	85	47	65	-7	0.93	2	17.10	2.31	48	1,082	-156	2,042	
Mt_Pocono	81	45	65	-3	0.56	3	17.66	2.22	61	989	183	1,924	
Southwest													
Pittsburgh/Alle	88	53	69	-3	0.42	2	10.74	-2.91	56	1,480	212	2,502	
Indiana_PA	84	46	65	-6	0.26	3	7.19	-8.62	37	1,224	3	2,191	
Myersdale	81	42	61	-10	0.40	2	16.26	0.87	53	859	-287	1,749	
Mount Pleasant	86	44	67	-2	1.30	1	15.95	0.24	55	1,263	227	2,250	
Pittsburgh Intl	88	51	70	-4	0.33	1	11.09	-1.71	51	1,480	147	2,498	
Connellsville	89	51	69	-4	0.60	2	18.78	3.72	60	1,353	-11	2,368	
Waynesburg	88	47	66	-5	0.59	2	13.56	-0.31	56	1,244	18	2,236	
South Central													
Biglerville	91	53	71	-5	0.16	1	17.10	4.57	52	1,457	-94	2,474	
Everett	88	46	66	-6	0.31	1	15.65	3.14	54	1,120	-111	2,027	
Hanover	91	48	70	-6	0.19	1	14.64	2.11	48	1,473	-78	2,498	
Harrisburg_AP	92	53	72	-5	0.24	1	14.88	1.26	51	1,603	20	2,647	
South Mountain	85	46	66	-6	0.36	1	19.65	6.60	56	1,105	-149	2,077	
York	90	47	70	-6	0.22	1	12.83	-1.06	41	1,470	-77	2,491	
Southeast													
Green Lane	88	53	71	-4	0.48	1	17.21	3.59	51	1,429	69	2,447	
Hamburg	88	49	69	-3	0.14	1	21.36	4.93	57	1,436	206	2,462	
West_Chester	90	50	71	-5	0.19	1	16.67	1.34	48	1,432	-102	2,433	
Lancaster	89	52	72	-3	0.33	2	14.07	-0.14	47	1,496	61	2,513	
Neshaminy Falls	90	53	72	-3	0.72	2	18.24	2.48	49	1,467	35	2,488	
New Holland	90	56	71	-3	0.35	1	15.82	1.61	46	1,497	62	2,523	
Philadelphia	91	60	76	-1	0.32	2	14.62	0.87	52	1,799	133	2,865	
Philadelphia NE	90	57	73	-4	0.36	2	14.93	1.18	50	1,608	-58	2,653	
Reading	88	54	72	-3	0.37	2	16.42	1.27	52	1,576	173	2,608	
Sellersville	88	51	69	-5	0.85	1	18.29	4.67	49	1,311	-49	2,314	
Willow Grove	89	57	73	-2	0.91	2	32.17	16.41	49	1,547	115	2,580	

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).
 Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.
 Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.
 Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.
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Internet Reporters Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA) - Corn and soybeans continue to suffer from the lack of rainfall. The wheat harvest wasn't good, with a lot of Aflatoxin caused by the spring rains. Some soybeans were planted last week after the wheat harvest. Oats are maturing and will soon be harvested. Hay is still being made, but the quality of mixed hay isn't good. Peaches are being harvested and they look good. Apples are maturing and sizing up nicely.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - We have had much better growing conditions in July than in June. Corn height varies from 6 inches to over six feet. Crops are well behind in development compared to other years. Beans are mostly in the ground and sprayed. A lot of land did not get planted this year because of too much rain.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - The field work continued between a few showers. The wheat harvest is underway.

CHESTER COUNTY, Hollis Baker (FSA) - Scattered thunderstorms on Friday brought needed moisture. Quantities of rain varied from a trace to one inch throughout the county. Corn is showing slight stress. Soybeans planted after wheat need rain.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner (FSA) - Clarion, Venango, Forest, and Warren counties are very dry. The crops are showing heat stress. Vegetable plants are having to be irrigated more than normal.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - It was a very cool week with off and on rain showers. Wheat harvesting was the big activity this week. Pasture conditions are starting to improve due to the cool and wet weather.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - Widespread showers late last week provided needed soil moisture across Upper Dauphin County. Lower Dauphin County has missed most of these events. Corn is rapidly growing. There were some issues with mycotoxins and low test weights on many loads delivered to grain centers.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - It was a good week for field work. The full season corn is nearly all in silk. Soybeans are progressing nicely as well. Rain is still needed. Peaches are slowly coming on. Quality and size is better than earlier anticipated.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff - The first planted corn is starting to tassel. All of the corn is dark green. The weather has

been great for the soybeans. Some hay fields will be mowed down for mulch.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burrell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - Last week we had typical summer weather. We got a shower Friday night that really helped the double cropped soybeans. Corn and soybeans are looking good. The small grain harvest is finished. Pasture growth has really slowed.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill (EXT) - Soils are now very hard and getting seriously dry. Many deficiencies are showing up because the roots are unable to get through the hard soil.

MERCER COUNTY, Gary Micsky (EXT) - The weekend rains slowed the wheat harvest, but were great for the corn and soybean development.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust - Last week was excellent for hay making. The cool days and nights have slowed down the ripening of sweet corn. We had 0.7 of inch of rain late in week.

POTTER COUNTY, Bill Waltman (EXT) - A frost in the third week of May froze blossoms. We are seeing very few apples develop.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - It was a good week for haymaking and harvesting grain. The corn and soybeans are stressed in some areas. The re-growth of alfalfa for the third cutting is slow. The pastures are turning into exercise lots, as rain is needed.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - The corn needs heat! Mornings temperatures were in the high 40's or low 50's. It is hard to find daytime temps in the 80's. The second cutting is coming along well.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - We got an inch or more of much-needed rain on Friday after almost a month with very little moisture. Corn, soybeans, and hay have suffered some yield loss due to the recent dry conditions.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NRCS) - The very dry conditions allowed for continuation of haymaking and small grain harvest. Corn is showing signs of stress under dry conditions. Pastures are shutting down under dry conditions.

YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl (EXT) - Last week was another week without widespread significant rain. This is beginning to be more of a concern as corn is tasseling.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 19, 2009

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	38	39	46
Corn, dough	7	3	5
Corn average height, inches	59	64	68
Barley, harvested	97	97	97
Wheat, ripe	98	98	99
Wheat, harvested	84	82	79
Oats, turning yellow	67	65	66
Oats, ripe	12	16	21
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	75	83	76
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	10	16	15
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	37	21	21
Peaches, harvested	23	12	16
Apples, harvested	10	3	3

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 19, 2009

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	4	22	47	26
Oats	0	2	17	55	26
Soybeans	0	4	24	52	20
Quality of hay made	1	4	23	44	28
Pasture	4	7	34	39	16
Peaches	0	0	9	59	32
Apples	0	0	4	56	40

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